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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,486	01/12/2001	Daniel Pelletier	US 010002	1745

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PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICAN CORP
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EXAMINER

LONG, HEATHER R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

RECEIVED
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JUL 12 2005

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,486

Applicant(s)

PELLETIER, DANIEL

Examiner

Heather R. Long

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 9-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 9-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 3/7/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues on Page 7, lines 6-8 that since Chim does not disclose any camera parametrics other than pan and zoom, Chim fails to anticipate the rejected claims, and it is urged that the rejection be withdrawn. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Claims 1 and 7 only require the apparatus to contain **at least one sequence of** camera parametrics selected from the group of movements including scanning, zooming, tilting, orientating, panning, fading, zoom-and-pull-back, fade-in, and fade-out. Chim discloses at least two of these therefore meeting the claimed limitations.

The Applicant argues on Page 7, lines 9-12 that Chim is not able to determine the number of objects in a scene and that Chim only provides for determining the location of an object based on sounds detected from that object. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Chim discloses the system can determine the current speaker from several different speakers (col. 4, lines 63-67) from the different signal levels transmitted by the microphones. Therefore, this inherently includes the number of objects since there is more than one speaker. For example, if two different sounds were coming from two different places in the room the apparatus would be able to determine that there are two objects in the

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room. Determining the positions for objects in a room go hand-in-hand with determining how many objects is in the room.

The Applicant argues on Page 7, lines 19-22 that Chim does not disclose speech recognition, but only audio detection via one or more microphones. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Chim is able to detect audio by using microphones with would include recognizing speech since speech is an audio signal.

The Applicant argues on Page 7, lines 23-25 that Chim does not disclose, literally or inherently, determining the object closest to a predetermined location in the image. Furthermore, the Applicant argues on Page 7, line 32 – Page 8, line 2 that Chim does not disclose, literally or inherently, determining the object closest to the center of the image. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In order for the apparatus to be readjusted accordingly to have the speakers in the captured image in the Chim reference the apparatus would have to determine the object closest to a predetermined location in the image or the object closest to the center of the image depending on the process the camera is going to perform. Therefore, Chim inherently teaches this feature.

The Applicant argues on page 8, lines 28-33 that the Examiner's contention that outputting the criteria for camera movement over a serial connection, or a parallel connection, or a network, would be well-known is not capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as to defy dispute, and thus cannot be supported by taking Official Notice, but only by citing a written

reference in support thereof. The Examiner has found a reference and has applied the reference to the rejection of claims 13, 14, and 15 below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chim (U.S. Patent 6,275,258).

Regarding claim 1, Chim discloses a method for automatically controlling the movements of at least one camera or camera lens to change the prospective of a scene viewed by the camera at least one camera or camera lens, the method comprising the steps of: selecting at least one sequence of camera parametrics from a plurality of sequences of camera parametrics, wherein the at least one sequence of camera parametrics is selected from the group of camera movements including scanning, zooming, tilting, orientating, panning, fading, zoom-and-pull-back, fade-in, fade-out, (col. 4, lines 51-54; col. 8, lines 41-44) and wherein the parametrics provide instruction to control movement of the at least one camera or camera lens (it is inherent that the selected parameters are already installed and selected on the camera in order for the camera to be able to perform the sequences); determining criteria for executing the selected sequence of camera parametrics, wherein the criteria are responsive to at least one high level parameter of at least one object contained in the scene (col. 4,

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lines 34-42); and adjusting movement of the at least one camera or camera lens in response to the determined criteria (col. 8, lines 26-44).

Regarding claim 3, Chim discloses a method as described in claim 1, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes the number of objects within the scene (the system can determine the current speaker from several different speakers (col. 4, lines 63-67) from the different signal levels transmitted by the microphones). Therefore, the one high level parameter inherently includes the number of objects since there is more than one speaker.

Regarding claim 4, Chim discloses a method as described in claim 1, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes the position of at least one object within the scene (col. 4, lines 64-67).

Regarding claim 5, Chim discloses a method as described in claim 1, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes speech recognition of at least one object within the scene (col. 4, lines 34-42).

Regarding claim 6, Chim discloses a method as described in claim 1, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes an audio input of at least one object within the scene (col. 4, lines 34-42).

Regarding claim 7, Chim discloses an apparatus for automatically controlling the movements of at least one camera or camera lens to change the prospective of a scene viewed by the at least one camera or camera lens, the apparatus comprising: a processor operative to: receive a first input for selecting at least one sequence of camera parametrics from a plurality of sequences of

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camera parametrics, wherein the at least one sequence of camera parametrics is selected from the group of camera movements including scanning, zooming, tilting, orientating, panning, fading, zoom-and-pull-back, fade-in, fade-out, (col. 4, lines 51-54; col. 8, lines 41-44) and wherein the parametrics provide instruction to control movement of the at least one camera or camera lens (it is inherent that the selected parameters are already installed and selected on the camera in order for the camera to be able to perform the sequences); receive a second input comprising at least one high level parameter of at least one object contained in the scene; determine criteria for executing the selected sequence of camera parametrics, wherein the criteria are responsive to the at least one high level parameter (col. 4, lines 34-42); and means for adjusting movement of the at least one camera or camera lens in response to the determined criteria (col. 8, lines 26-44).

Regarding claim **9**, Chim discloses an apparatus as described by claim 7, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes the number of objects within the scene (the system can determine the current speaker from several different speakers (col. 4, lines 63-67) from the different signal levels transmitted by the microphones). Therefore, the one high level parameter inherently includes the number of objects since there is more than one speaker.

Regarding claim **10**, Chim discloses an apparatus as described by claim 7, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes the position of at least one object within the scene (col. 4, lines 64-67).

Regarding claim **11**, Chim discloses an apparatus as described by claim 7, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes speech recognition of at least one object within the scene (col. 4, lines 34-42).

Regarding claim **12**, Chim discloses an apparatus as described by claim 7, wherein the at least one high level parameter includes an audio input of at least one object within the scene (col. 4, lines 34-42).

Regarding claim **16**, Chim discloses an apparatus as described by claim 7, wherein the camera movement is accomplished electronically (col. 4, lines 16-21).

Regarding claim **17**, Chim discloses an apparatus as described by claim 7, wherein the camera movement is accomplished mechanically (col. 4, lines 40-42).

Regarding claim **18**, Chim discloses a method as described by claim 1, including: locating the at least one object in an image of the scene (col. 4, lines 63-67); determining the object closest to a predetermined location in the image (it is inherent that the system determines how far away the current speaker is from the last speaker in order to readjust the camera accordingly); adjusting the movement of the at least one camera or camera lens in response to the determination (col. 8, lines 41-44).

Regarding claim **19**, Chim discloses a method as described by claim 1, including: locating the at least one object in an image of the scene (col. 4, lines 63-67); determining the object closest to center of the image (it is inherent that

the system determines how far away the current speaker is from the last speaker, which would be in the center of the scene, in order to readjust the camera accordingly); determining the percentage of the scene around the closest object (it is inherent that the percentage of the scene is determined in order to figure out how far the camera needs to be zoomed in or out); adjusting the zoom level of the at least one camera or camera lens to the percentage determination (it is inherent that once the percentage has been determined it will be used to adjust the zoom accordingly).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
5. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chim as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Steinberg et al. (U.S. Patent 6,750,902)

Regarding claims **13-15**, Chim discloses all subject matter as discussed with claim 7, except that the means for adjusting the camera movement effects outputting of the criteria over a serial connection, parallel connection, or a network. Official Notice is taken that outputting of the criteria over be output over a serial connection, parallel connection, or a network.

Referring to the Steinberg et al. reference, Steinberg et al. discloses an apparatus wherein the means for adjusting the camera movement effects

outputting of the criteria over a serial connection, parallel connection, or a network (abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a serial connection, parallel connection, or a network to output criteria for adjusting the camera movements as taught by Steinberg et al. with the apparatus disclosed by Chim because it is well known in the art to use any of these connections to transmit data from one device to another.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather R. Long whose telephone number is 571-272-7368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on 571-272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Heather R Long
Examiner
Art Unit 2615

HRL
June 21, 2005


DAVID L. OMETZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/759,486	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination PELLETIER, DANIEL	
	Examiner Heather R. Long	Art Unit 2615	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-6,275,258	08-2001	Chim, Nicholas	348/211.12
	B	US-6,750,902	06-2004	Steinberg et al.	348/211.3
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

NEW CENTRAL FAX NUMBER

Effective July 15, 2005

On July 15, 2005, the Central FAX Number will change to **571-273-8300**. This new Central FAX Number is the result of relocating the Central FAX server to the Office's Alexandria, Virginia campus.

Most facsimile-transmitted patent application related correspondence is required to be sent to the Central FAX Number. To give customers time to adjust to the new Central FAX Number, faxes sent to the old number (703-872-9306) will be routed to the new number until September 15, 2005.

After September 15, 2005, the old number will no longer be in service and **571-273-8300** will be the only facsimile number recognized for "centralized delivery".

CENTRALIZED DELIVERY POLICY: For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the Central FAX number, unless an exception applies. For example, if the examiner has rejected claims in a regular U.S. patent application, and the reply to the examiner's Office action is desired to be transmitted by facsimile rather than mailed, the reply must be sent to the Central FAX Number.

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